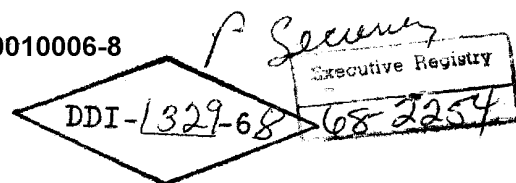


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2 May 1968

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence**

**SUBJECT : Declassifying the Title "National  
Photographic Interpretation Center"**

1. Paragraph 5 of this memorandum contains a recommendation for your approval.

2. Since 1962 the organizational title "National Photographic Interpretation Center" has been classified **CONFIDENTIAL**. It is worth reviewing some of the related background. In late 1961 the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence (General Cabell) decided that the name of the Center and its association with the CIA should be classified **SECRET**. Plans were also made to place the Center under some type of cover to conceal the fact that the construction activities at [REDACTED] were for NPIC. In the early fall of 1962 the cover plan was abandoned in light of newspaper articles linking [REDACTED] to CIA and the difficulty of maintaining anything more than "light" or "status" cover. It was also decided to classify the organization title of the Center as **CONFIDENTIAL**. In October 1962 the DDC issued the attached directive implementing this decision which remains in force today.

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3. Time and circumstances seem to have overtaken the original intent of this decision, and I recommend alteration. Six years ago there appeared to be a need to protect even the facts of the existence of U. S. reconnaissance programs

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and of the Agency's involvement in the exploitation of photography. Since that time, and particularly since the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Agency's involvement in photographic interpretation activities has become widely known. It is very difficult to conceal or offer plausible denial of the existence of the National Photographic Interpretation Center and its association with the Agency, partly because the decision to classify these facts was made one year after it was created. During its first year of operation the Center was unclassified and, in DoD circles particularly and among certain contractors, it became and has continued to be widely known and discussed as if it were unclassified.

4. If the Center's title itself were declassified, a number of unnecessary complications in the operation of the Center would be eliminated.

a. Classification of the title complicates working relations between the Center and various elements of DoD, particularly those participating in manning the Center. Currently, special efforts must be made to expunge reference to NPIC in the unclassified personnel records of military personnel assigned to the Center, and in some instances, military men may not have received adequate recognition of their services because of the need to maintain the "CONFIDENTIAL" nature of the Center. The proposal to downgrade the Center's title has been discussed with DIA authorities who say there is no objection by DIA to our proposal.

b. The 1962 directive has provided an artificial criterion for classifying contracts and for dealing with industry and universities on research and development matters. Upon declassification, we can be more realistic in this matter.

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- c. Classification of the title tends to inhibit acknowledgment of the existence of the Center even when it is in the best interest of the Agency to do so. Such action is counter to the intent of the classification--to protect the fact that the Agency is involved in photo interpretation. Agency association with imagery interpretation activities, however, has been a matter of public knowledge for some time. For example, the recruiting of specialists in this field has required extensive advertisement.

5. I recommend that the title "National Photographic Interpretation Center" be downgraded from CONFIDENTIAL to UNCLASSIFIED and that this title, like those of all other major components of the Directorate of Intelligence, be treated on an UNCLASSIFIED basis under the following conditions:

- a. The full title may be used in official correspondence, documents, and records on an unclassified basis.
- b. No attempt may be made to publicize the title in unofficial publications.
- c. Although the fact that NPIC is part of the Agency may be acknowledged when necessary, its position in the Agency's organizational structure may not be identified on an unclassified basis.
- d. All CIA personnel under the jurisdiction of NPIC are considered overt employees of CIA and as such may admit to employment by CIA, when necessary, but may give no

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Further detailed organizational information. They are specifically enjoined from identifying affiliation with NPIC except for official business.

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- e. CIA occupancy of [redacted] (officially designated as [redacted]) may not be volunteered nor publicized to unclassified persons. CIA occupancy may be admitted, however, if in the judgment of the employee involved the circumstances permit no other sensible answer. Personnel under the jurisdiction of NPIC may admit assignment to the Building but not to the fact that NPIC occupies the Building.

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**EDWARD W. PROCTOR**  
Acting Deputy Director for Intelligence

**Attachment:**  
**1962 Directive**

**CONCUR:**

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Signed: [redacted]

for [redacted]

Director of Security

*Approved:*

*L. E. White*

**Executive Director-Comptroller**

6 MAY 1968

**Date**

3 MAY 1968

**Date**

8 MAY 1968

**Date**

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**Recommendation and conditions contained in paragraph 5  
are APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Director of Central Intelligence**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**EWPrector:fbr**

**Distribution:**

**Original - Director**

**(Return NPIC)**

**1 - Director**

**1 - DDCI**

**1 - Executive Director**

**1 - Executive Registry**

**1 - DDI**

**① 2 - Director of Logistics**

**1 - Director of Security**

**1 - NPIC/ODIR**

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SENDER <b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>				<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>				<b>SECRET</b>			
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## OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	DD Director of Logistics	10 MAY 1968	[Signature]
2	D/L	5/13/68	[Signature]
3	ok files		
4	<del>D/L CAME</del>		
5			
6			

<input type="checkbox"/> ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY
<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> DISPATCH	<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> FILE	<input type="checkbox"/> RETURN
<input type="checkbox"/> CONCURRENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE

Remarks:

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER

FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.

DATE

Acting DDI

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**UNCLASSIFIED** **CONFIDENTIAL** **SECRET**